192

The dog.....*mwa mwa!* (as in bark).
The cat.....*ngwa!*
The crab.....*kakakaka!*
The lion.....*ha ha ha!*
The duck.....*hwa hwa hwa!*
The cow.....*mwa!*
The sheep.....*hwi!* (as in bitter).
The goat.....*mbi!*
The dove.....*mu mu!*
The lion.....*ng'wwang'u!*

● 195 578 Among the Yao, abuse and obscene language are rare; expressions which appear in other languages all the world over are only used on great provocation and commonly with dire results. This, too, is opposed to the ways of neighboring tribes, the Anyanja and Angoni, who freely make use of such expressions as "*N'pini pa mukui*" and "*Nkunga wa mukui*" "The prepuce of your mother! Clitoris of your mother!"

The following exclamations of abuse and expressions of obscenity will be seen to follow very closely upon those in other countries.

1. *Mwinikanwa!* (to a girl or woman), *mkalaki!* (to a boy or man) means you are a person who has not been to *your Unyago*, and therefore "you are without manners!"

2. *M'wana mkunguwi!* an expression to a child meaning "you little wretch," "you nasty little thing!"

3. *Akalala kwai kipwai!* he eats with the back of his hand, he is uncircumcised, i.e. "he is a dirty person!"

4. A man with big ears is hailed "look at your ears like a lemur!" (*Likondo*, a lemur).

A Yao woman seldom or never swears at or uses bad language to a man nor the converse; the woman, however, is not behindhand in the art of bitter complaining and nagging.

[208] Pulling down the lower eyelid with the finger accompanying some exclamation has exactly the same significance as in European countries, "I am not so green as I look!"

Ku-ompa is to make a sound like "pish" with the mouth, and is a great insult, for which a man will fight.

Screwing of the lips to one side as in the action to get rid of the sour skin of a fruit, *ku-mwe'ywapa* is an expression of contemptuous disgust.

685 531 The similarity to European ways is again seen in swearing or taking oath. A Yao swears by the spirits of his ancestors or by a chief:

"*Chivisi cha Mukunguli*"
"(By) the graves of *Mukunguli*"

or he may indirectly name some ancestor:

"*Kyakwikila kyangu!*" or "*Kyakwikila kitindai!*"
"I swear by the spear!" "I swear by the line!"